AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 28 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 11, 13, 16-18, 20, 23-27, 31, 37, 39, 41, 44, 47-49, 51, 57, 59, 62-64, 66, and 69 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A multiphase compressing air assembly for supplying compressed air to a system, said assembly comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connectable to a power source shaft and operable to compress air for the system,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first rotatable impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connectable to the power source shaft and operable to compress air for the system,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second rotatable impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the system in a number of

operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor,

said first and second compressors being drivingly connectable to the power source shaft wherein both of the impellers are rotated continuously by the power source shaft and at a substantially constant relative speed to the power source shaft speed during the operating phases of the compressors.

2. (Currently Amended) The assembly as claimed in claim 1; and

a drive assembly operable to drivingly connect the compressors to the power source shaft ~~so that each of the compressors operates continuously with operation of the power source~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The assembly as claimed in claim 2,

said first and second impellers ~~being rotatable,~~ each being operable to compress air for the system when rotated,

said first and second compressors including a transmission drivingly connecting the impellers to the drive assembly,

said transmission cooperating with the drive assembly to maintain rotation of the impellers at the a substantially constant speed ~~ratio~~ relative to operation of the power source.

4. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 3,

said transmission including a plurality of intermeshing gears with at least one of said gears being common to both compressors.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly as claimed in claim 4;~~ A multiphase compressing air assembly for supplying compressed air to a system, said assembly comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connectable to a power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connectable to the power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air;

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the system in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from

the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor; and

a drive assembly operable to drivingly connect the compressors to the power source so that each of the compressors operates continuously with operation of the power source,

said first and second impellers being rotatable, each being operable to compress air for the system when rotated,

said first and second compressors including a transmission drivingly connecting the impellers to the drive assembly,

said transmission cooperating with the drive assembly to maintain rotation of the impellers at a substantially constant ratio relative to operation of the power source,

said transmission including a plurality of intermeshing gears with at least one of said gears being common to both compressors,

said transmission including a common rotatable transmission shaft coupled to said common gear,

said drive assembly including an endless element entraining at least a portion of said common shaft and being operable to entrain at least a portion of the power source.

6. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1,

said fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that in all operating phases both compressors compress at least some air for the system whenever the power source is operating.

7. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 6,

said fluid flow control assembly being operable to fluidly intercommunicate the compressors with the system so that in all operating phases substantially all of the air compressed by each of the compressors is delivered to the system.

8. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1,

said first phase including a series phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet.

9. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 8,

said second phase including a parallel phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied directly to the system.

10. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 9,

said fluid flow control assembly being configured to switch operation of the compressors from the series phase to the parallel phase in response to a predetermined condition.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly as claimed in claim 10,~~ A multiphase compressing air assembly for supplying compressed air to a system, said assembly comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connectable to a power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connectable to the power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the system in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor,

said first phase including a series phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet,

said second phase including a parallel phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied directly to the system.

said fluid flow control assembly being configured to switch operation of the compressors from the series phase to the parallel phase in response to a predetermined condition,

said predetermined condition being a decrease ~~an increase~~ in pressure in the system downstream of the first and second compressors.

12. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 11,

said fluid flow control assembly being configured to switch operation of the compressors from the parallel phase to the series phase in response to a second predetermined condition.

13. (Currently Amended) The assembly as claimed in claim 12,

said predetermined condition being ~~a decrease~~ an increase in pressure in the system downstream of the first and second compressors.

14. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1; and

a case presenting a compression chamber and a transmission chamber,

said first and second compressors being at least partially housed within said compression chamber.

15. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 1,

said fluid flow control assembly including a passageway fluidly communicating said first outlet and said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a first valve disposed along said passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly as claimed in claim 15,~~ A multiphase compressing air assembly for supplying compressed air to a system, said assembly comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connectable to a power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connectable to the power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the system in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least

some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor,

said fluid flow control assembly including a passageway fluidly communicating said first outlet and said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a first valve disposed along said passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through,

said first valve shiftable between an open position wherein compressed air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said passageway and a closed position wherein compressed air is prevented from flowing through said passageway.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly as claimed in claim 15,~~ A multiphase compressing air assembly for supplying compressed air to a system, said assembly comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connectable to a power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connectable to the power source and operable to compress air for the system,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the system in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor,

said fluid flow control assembly including a passageway fluidly communicating said first outlet and said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a first valve disposed along said passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through,

said fluid flow control assembly including an additional passageway in fluid communication with said first outlet and operable to be in fluid communication with the system,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a second valve disposed along said additional passageway downstream of said first-mentioned passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air through said additional passageway.

18. (Currently Amended) The assembly as claimed in claim 17,

said second valve shiftable between an open position wherein compressed air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said additional passageway and a closed position wherein compressed air is prevented from flowing through said additional passageway.

19. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 17,

said fluid flow control assembly including a second additional passageway in fluid communication with said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a third valve disposed along said second additional passageway upstream of said first-mentioned passageway for controlling the flow of air through said second additional passageway.

20. (Currently Amended) The assembly as claimed in claim 19,

said third valve shiftable between an open position wherein air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said second additional passageway and a closed position wherein air is prevented from flowing through said second additional passageway.

21. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 19; and

a case presenting a compression chamber and a transmission chamber,

said first and second compressors and said fluid flow control assembly being at least partially housed within said compression chamber,

said compression chamber presenting a case inlet in fluid communication with the atmosphere.

22. (Original) The assembly as claimed in claim 21,

said fluid flow control assembly including a third additional passageway fluidly communicating the case inlet with said first inlet and fluidly communicating the case inlet with said second additional passageway,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a fourth valve disposed along said third additional passageway for controlling the flow of air there through.

23. (Currently Amended) The assembly as claimed in claim 22,

said fourth valve shiftable between an open position wherein air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said third additional passageway and a partially closed position wherein at least some air is prevented from flowing through said third additional passageway.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of supplying compressed air to a system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) driving a first compressor ~~off of~~ by a power source shaft to compress air;

(b) driving a second compressor ~~off of~~ by the power source shaft to compress air;

(c) operating the compressors at least partially in series so that at least some air that is compressed by the first compressor is further compressed by the second compressor and then supplied to the system; and

(d) operating the compressors at least partially in parallel so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first compressor and at least another portion of air is

compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor,

said driving steps of (a) and (b) each being performed so that both compressors are continuously operated by the power source at a substantially constant relative speed to the power source shaft speed during the operating steps of (c) and (d).

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 24,~~ A method of supplying compressed air to a system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) driving a first compressor off of a power source to compress air;

(b) driving a second compressor off of the power source to compress air;

(c) operating the compressors at least partially in series so that at least some air that is compressed by the first compressor is further compressed by the second compressor and then supplied to the system; and

(d) operating the compressors at least partially in parallel so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first compressor and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor,

step (d) being performed after step (c) so that operation of the compressors phases from at least partially in series to at least partially in parallel in response to a predetermined condition,

said predetermined condition comprising a decrease ~~an increase~~ in pressure in the system downstream of the first and second compressors.

26. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 24,

step (d) including the step of switching operation of the compressors to substantially fully parallel in response to a predetermined condition so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first ~~compressors~~ compressor and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor wherein said at least a portion and said at least another portion of compressed air comprise substantially all compressed air supplied to the system.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 26;~~ A method of supplying compressed air to a system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) driving a first compressor off of a power source to compress air;

(b) driving a second compressor off of the power source to compress air;

(c) operating the compressors at least partially in series so that at least some air that is compressed by the first compressor is further compressed by the second compressor and then supplied to the system; and

(d) operating the compressors at least partially in parallel so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first compressor and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor,

step (d) including the step of switching operation of the compressors to substantially fully parallel in response to a predetermined condition so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first compressors and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor wherein said at least a portion and said at least another portion of compressed air comprise substantially all compressed air supplied to the system,

said predetermined condition ~~an increase~~ being a decrease in pressure in the system downstream of the first and second compressors.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 28, steps (a) and (b) including the common step of intermeshing a common gear between the compressors.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 30;~~ A method of supplying compressed air to a system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) driving a first compressor off of a power source to compress air;

(b) driving a second compressor off of the power source to compress air;

(c) operating the compressors at least partially in series so that at least some air that is compressed by the first compressor is further compressed by the second compressor and then supplied to the system; and

(d) operating the compressors at least partially in parallel so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first compressor and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor.

steps (a) and (b) each including the step of drivingly connecting the compressors to the power source so that each of the compressors operates continuously with operation of the power source,

steps (a) and (b) including the common step of intermeshing a common gear between the compressors,

steps (a) and (b) further including the common steps of entraining an endless element around at least a portion of the power source and driving the common gear at least in part with the endless element.

32. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 24,

steps (c) and (d) each including the step of operating both compressors so that each compressor compresses at least some air that is supplied to the system whenever the power source is operating.

33. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 32,

steps (c) and (d) each further including the step of delivering substantially all of the air compressed by the compressors to the system.

34. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 24,

step (c) including the step of operating the compressors substantially fully in series so that substantially all air that is compressed by the first compressor is further compressed by the second compressor and then supplied to the system.

35. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 24; and

(e) housing both compressors substantially within a case.

36. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 24; and

(e) intercommunicating the first and second compressors and the system,

step (e) including the steps of fluidly communicating the first and second compressors with a serial passageway and disposing a first valve along the serial passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 36,~~ A method of supplying compressed air to a system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) driving a first compressor off of a power source to compress air;

(b) driving a second compressor off of the power source to compress air;

(c) operating the compressors at least partially in series so that at least some air that is compressed by the first compressor is further compressed by the second compressor and then supplied to the system;

(d) operating the compressors at least partially in parallel so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first compressor and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor; and

(e) intercommunicating the first and second compressors and the system,

step (e) including the steps of fluidly communicating the first and second compressors with a serial passageway and disposing a first valve along the serial passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through,

step (c) including the step of shifting the first valve into an open position wherein compressed air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said serial passageway.

38. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 36,

step (d) including the step of shifting the first valve into a closed position wherein compressed air is prevented from flowing through said serial passageway.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 36,~~ A method of supplying compressed air to a system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) driving a first compressor off of a power source to compress air;

(b) driving a second compressor off of the power source to compress air;

(c) operating the compressors at least partially in series so that at least some air that is compressed by the first compressor is further compressed by the second compressor and then supplied to the system;

(d) operating the compressors at least partially in parallel so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first compressor and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the system without passing through the other compressor; and

(e) intercommunicating the first and second compressors and the system,

step (e) including the steps of fluidly communicating the first and second compressors with a serial passageway and disposing a first valve along the serial passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through,

step (e) including the steps of fluidly communicating the first compressor and the system with an additional passageway and disposing a second valve along the additional passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through.

40. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 39,

step (c) including the step of shifting the second valve into a closed position wherein compressed air is prevented from flowing through said additional passageway.

41. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 39,

step (d) including the step of shifting the second valve into an open position wherein compressed air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said additional passageway.

42. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 39,

step (e) including the steps of fluidly communicating the second compressor and the atmosphere with a parallel passageway and disposing a third valve along the parallel passageway for controlling the flow of air there through.

43. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 42,

step (c) including the step of shifting the third valve into a closed position wherein air is prevented from flowing through said parallel passageway.

44. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 43,

step (d) including the step of shifting the third valve into an open position wherein air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through the parallel passageway.

45. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 42,

step (e) including the step of fluidly communicating the atmosphere, the first compressor, and the parallel passageway with an inlet passageway and disposing a fourth valve along said inlet passageway for controlling the flow of air there through.

46. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 45; and

(f) shifting the fourth valve into a partially closed position wherein at least some air is prevented from flowing through said inlet passageway.

47. (Currently Amended) In a pneumatic conveyor including tubing and a power source shaft, an improved centrifugal air compressing system comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connected to the power source shaft for compressing air for the tubing,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first rotatable impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connected to the power source shaft for compressing air for the tubing,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second rotatable impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the tubing in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the tubing without passing through the other compressor,

said first and second compressors being drivingly connected to the power source shaft wherein both of the impellers are rotated continuously by the power source shaft and at a substantially constant relative speed to the power source shaft speed during the operating phases of the compressors.

48. (Currently Amended) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 47; and a drive assembly drivingly connecting the compressors to the power source ~~so that each of the compressors operates continuously with operation of the power source~~.

49. (Currently Amended) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 48, said first and second impellers being rotatable to compress air for the tubing when rotated, said first and second compressors including a transmission drivingly connecting the impellers to the drive assembly,

said transmission cooperating with the drive assembly to maintain rotation of the impellers at the ~~a~~ substantially constant speed ~~ratio~~ relative to the operation of the power source.

50. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 49,

said transmission including a plurality of intermeshing gears with at least one of said gears being common to both compressors.

51. (Currently Amended) ~~In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 50;~~ In a pneumatic conveyor including tubing and a power source, an improved centrifugal air compressing system comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air;

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the tubing in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the tubing without passing through the other compressor; and

a drive assembly drivingly connecting the compressors to the power source so that each of the compressors operates continuously with operation of the power source,

said first and second impellers being rotatable to compress air for the tubing when rotated,

said first and second compressors including a transmission drivingly connecting the impellers to the drive assembly,

said transmission cooperating with the drive assembly to maintain rotation of the impellers at a substantially constant ratio relative to the operation of the power source,

said transmission including a plurality of intermeshing gears with at least one of said gears being common to both compressors,

said transmission including a common rotatable transmission shaft coupled to said common gear,

said drive assembly including an endless element entraining at least a portion of said common shaft and at least a portion of the power source.

52. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 47,

said fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that in all operating phases both compressors compress at least some air for the tubing whenever the power source is operating.

53. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 52,

said fluid flow control assembly being operable to fluidly intercommunicate the compressors with the tubing so that in all operating phases substantially all of the air compressed by each of the compressors is delivered to the tubing.

54. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 47,

said first phase including a series phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet.

55. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 54,

said second phase including a parallel phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied directly to the tubing.

56. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 55,

said fluid flow control assembly being configured to switch operation of the compressors from the series phase to the parallel phase in response to a predetermined condition.

57. (Currently Amended) ~~In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 56,~~ In a pneumatic conveyor including tubing and a power source, an improved centrifugal air compressing system comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the tubing in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the tubing without passing through the other compressor.

said first phase including a series phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet,

said second phase including a parallel phase in which substantially all compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied directly to the tubing,

said fluid flow control assembly being configured to switch operation of the compressors from the series phase to the parallel phase in response to a predetermined condition,

said predetermined condition being a decrease ~~an increase~~ in pressure in the tubing downstream of the first and second compressors.

58. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 57,

said fluid flow control assembly being configured to switch operation of the compressors from the parallel phase to the series phase in response to a second predetermined condition.

59. (Currently Amended) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 58,

said predetermined condition being an increase ~~a decrease~~ in pressure in the tubing downstream of the first and second compressors.

60. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 47; and

a case presenting a compression chamber and a transmission chamber,

said first and second compressors being at least partially housed within said compression chamber.

61. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 47,

said fluid flow control assembly including a passageway fluidly communicating said first outlet and said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a first valve disposed along said passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through.

62. (Currently Amended) ~~In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 61,~~ and In a pneumatic conveyor including tubing and a power source, an improved centrifugal air compressing system comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the tubing in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the tubing without passing through the other compressor,

said fluid flow control assembly including a passageway fluidly communicating said first outlet and said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a first valve disposed along said passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through,

said first valve shiftable between an open position wherein compressed air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said passageway and a closed position wherein compressed air is prevented from flowing through said passageway.

63. (Currently Amended) ~~In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 61,~~ In a pneumatic conveyor including tubing and a power source, an improved centrifugal air compressing system comprising:

a first compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said first compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second compressor drivingly connected to the power source for compressing air for the tubing,

said second compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the compressors so that the compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the tubing in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the tubing without passing through the other compressor,

said fluid flow control assembly including a passageway fluidly communicating said first outlet and said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a first valve disposed along said passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air there through,

said fluid flow control assembly including an additional passageway in fluid communication with said first outlet and the tubing,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a second valve disposed along said additional passageway downstream of said first-mentioned passageway for controlling the flow of compressed air through said additional passageway.

64. (Currently Amended) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 63,

said second valve shiftable between an open position wherein compressed air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said additional passageway and a closed position wherein compressed air is prevented from flowing through said additional passageway.

65. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 63,

said fluid flow control assembly including a second additional passageway in fluid communication with said second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a third valve disposed along said second additional passageway upstream of said first-mentioned passageway for controlling the flow of air through said second additional passageway.

66. (Currently Amended) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 65,

said third valve shiftable between an open position wherein air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said second additional passageway and a closed position wherein air is prevented from flowing through said second additional passageway.

67. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 65; and

a case presenting a compression chamber and a transmission chamber,

said first and second compressors and said fluid flow control assembly being at least partially housed within said compression chamber,

said compression chamber presenting a case inlet in fluid communication with the atmosphere.

68. (Original) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 67,

said fluid flow control assembly including a third additional passageway fluidly communicating the case inlet with said first inlet and fluidly communicating the case inlet with said second additional passageway,

said fluid flow control assembly further including a fourth valve disposed along said third additional passageway for controlling the flow of air there through.

69. (Currently Amended) In a pneumatic conveyor as claimed in claim 68,

said fourth valve shiftable between an open position wherein air ~~can~~ is permitted to flow through said third additional passageway and a partially closed position wherein at least some air is prevented from flowing through said third additional passageway.

Please add new claims 70-72 as follows:

70. (New) A multiphase compressing air assembly for supplying compressed air to a pneumatic conveyor, wherein the conveyor includes tubing and a power source shaft, said assembly comprising:

a first centrifugal compressor drivingly connectable to the power source shaft and operable to compress air for the tubing,

said first centrifugal compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second centrifugal compressor drivingly connectable to the power source shaft and operable to compress air for the tubing,

said second centrifugal compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the centrifugal compressors wherein the centrifugal compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the tubing in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the tubing without passing through the other centrifugal compressor and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly being configured to switch from the first phase to the second phase in response to an increase in pressure in the tubing downstream of the first and second centrifugal compressors.

71. (New) A method of supplying compressed air to a pneumatic conveyor, wherein the conveyor includes tubing and a power source shaft, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) driving a first centrifugal compressor by the power source shaft to compress air;

(b) driving a second centrifugal compressor by the power source shaft to compress air;

(c) operating the centrifugal compressors at least partially in series so that at least some air that is compressed by the first centrifugal compressor is further compressed by the second centrifugal compressor and then supplied to the tubing; and

(d) operating the centrifugal compressors at least partially in parallel so that at least a portion of air is compressed by the first centrifugal compressor and at least another portion of air is compressed by the second centrifugal compressor and the at least a portion and at least another portion of compressed air are supplied to the tubing without passing through the other centrifugal compressor,

said operating step of (c) being performed after said operating step of (d) so that operation of the centrifugal compressors phases from at least partially in parallel to at least partially in series in response to an increase in pressure in the tubing downstream from the first and second centrifugal compressors.

72. (New) In a pneumatic conveyor including tubing and a power source shaft, an improved centrifugal air compressing system comprising:

a first centrifugal compressor drivingly connected to the power source shaft for compressing air for the tubing,

said first centrifugal compressor including a first inlet, a spaced first outlet, and a first impeller fluidly between the first inlet and first outlet to compress air;

a second centrifugal compressor drivingly connected to the power source shaft for compressing air for the tubing,

said second centrifugal compressor including a second inlet, a spaced second outlet, and a second impeller fluidly between the second inlet and second outlet to compress air; and

a fluid flow control assembly fluidly intercommunicating the centrifugal compressors wherein the centrifugal compressors cooperatively provide compressed air to the tubing in a number of operating phases, including a first phase in which at least some compressed air from the first and second outlets is supplied to the tubing without passing through the other centrifugal compressor and a second phase in which at least some compressed air from the first outlet is supplied to the second inlet,

said fluid flow control assembly switching from the first phase to the second phase in response to an increase in pressure in the tubing downstream of the first and second centrifugal compressors.